

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /060 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/B:MWCOTTER:RNICHOLSON:BJD

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

ARA/BC:WLOWENTHAL (DRAFT)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BL

SUBJECT: ORMACHEA-CAPRILES CALL ON DEPARTMENT

1. HECTOR ORMACHEA AND BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR ROBERTO CAPRILES CALLED ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR KARKASHIAN AND DESK OFFICERS AFTERNOON OF MARCH 12 TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MAJOR SUBJECT COVERED BY ORMACHEA CONCERNED CURRENT AND PROJECTED GOB ORGANIZATION OF ITS PLANNING FUNCTION. HE INDICATED THAT REESTABLISHED PLANNING OFFICES IN EACH MINISTRY WILL DEVELOP PROJECTS REQUIRING FINANCING. MINPLANNING WILL PERFORM INITIAL SCREENING OF THOSE PROJECTS AND ASSIGN PRIORITIES. THE PREINVESTMENT INSTITUTE WILL ARRANGE FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FINANCE (INDEF) WHICH ORMACHEA RUNS WILL SEEK NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING. FOLLOW-UP ON PROJECTS WOULD BE PERFORMED BY INDEF AND THE DCCP IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

POINT OF ORMACHEA'S PRESENTATION APPEARED TO BE AN INFORMAL NOTIFICATION THAT FROM NOW ON U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THAT OF OTHER DONORS, SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY RESPONSIVE TO GOB-DEVELOPED PLANS AND PRIORITIES. ORMACHEA
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SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT AND AID/W SUPPORT GOB

EFFORTS TO THAT END. DEPTOFF'S POINTED OUT THAT A.I.D.'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE PLACED RATHER STRICT LIMITS ON THE SECTORS AND BENEFICIARIES WHICH WE COULD HELP, BUT THAT WITHIN THESE WE, OF COURSE, WOULD BE AS COOPERATIVE AS

POSSIBLE.

2. DEPTOFF RAISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PLANNING FUNCTION IN TERMS OF COORDINATING ACTIVITIES OF IFI PROGRAMS IN BOLIVIA. GROWING NUMBER OF SUCH PROGRAMS AND INCREASING COINCIDENCE OF TARGET GROUPS MAKES SUCH COORDINATION MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER. ORMACHEA INDICATED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAD GIVEN SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE PROBLEM AND PLANNED TWO STEPS. FIRST WOULD BE TO CIRCULATE A MONTHLY NEWS-LETTER AMONG ALL INTERESTED IFIS AND EMBASSIES LISTING POSSIBLE PROJECTS, THEIR STATE OF PROGRESS, AND GENERAL ECONOMIC DATA OF INTEREST. SECOND WOULD BE A MONTHLY MEETING, HOSTED BY INDEF, FOR ALL FOREIGN INVESTORS AND ASSISTANCE AGENCIES PRESENT IN BOLIVIA TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW PROJECTS.

3. DEPTOFF RAISED BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER RE POPULATION CONTROL. AMBASSADOR AND ORMACHEA AGREED THAT LETTER PROBABLY INTENDED TO EMBARRASS GOB IN RETALIATION FOR GOB'S RECENT ACTIONS AGAINST CHURCH CONTROL OF RADIO STATIONS. ORMACHEA SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AT TIMING OF BISHOP'S PRONOUNCEMENT, COMING IMMEDIATELY AFTER ECLA MEETING WHERE LECHIN "MADE STATEMENT THAT GOB WAS AGAINST BIRTH CONTROL BECAUSE BOLIVIA NEEDED LARGER POPULATION FOR DEVELOPMENT." FYI: U.S. DELEGATION TO MEXICO MEETING STATE LECHIN MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT IN PLENARY SESSIONS. END FYI.

4. CAPRILES INFORMED DEPTOFFS THAT HE IS RETURNING TO BOLIVIA MARCH 17 FOR ONE WEEK. HE GAVE NO INDICATION WHAT, IF ANY, SPECIFIC SUBJECTS HE PLANS TO TAKE UP WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE MEETING PROVIDED A USEFUL UPDATE ON ORMACHEA'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND THINKING. LITTLE NEW
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GROUND WAS TURNED, HOWEVER. SOMEWHAT TO OUR SURPRISE, THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER PADES-TYPE LOAN WAS NOT RAISED, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH ORMACHEA. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE056824
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MWCOTTER:RNICHOLSON:BJD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750089-0725
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750353/aaaabvet.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORMACHEA-CAPRILES CALL ON DEPARTMENT
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BL, US, (ORMACHEA, HECTOR), (CAPRILES, ROBERTO)
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006